



## Among Friends Newsletter

### Fall 2023

#### WHY DO WE ASK YOU FOR (A SMALL) YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FEE?

Unlike a lot of not-for-profits who rely on membership fees to pay for the activities of the group, we make our income from book sales and concert donations. Indeed, we are highly successful at making money! Why then do we ask you for even a 5\$ membership fee? Essentially, this requirement is tied to our need to have liability insurance to protect members when carrying out duties for the organization. This insurance is \$1,650 a year, and the fees partially cover this expense.

#### ANNUAL BBQ AT THE RICHARDSON ENCLAVE ON THE BAY

Thanks again to Chris, Robert, Francis and Jean (Francis's daughter who lives in the amazing small house beside the cottage) for hosting the FOML late summer gathering. The event had to be postponed but the second day made up for it with glorious sunny skies and warm temperatures.

Below are some pics of the attendees, including a group one with Chris and Robert Richardson (taken when Robert wasn't barbecuing). Regretfully, I didn't get a photo of Francis directing traffic or Jean helping out—but they were there ensuring a successful gathering!



*Nancy Allendorf and Jim Brown*



*Lynette Morley*



*Ellen Smith and Sheila Carmichael*



*Laura Simmons and Pat King*



L to R

*Suzanne Wussow (Secretary)*  
*Robert Richardson (Web Support)*  
*Chris Richardson (Net Shed Book Coordinator)*  
*Leslie Ransom (President)*

*All Photos by*  
*Mary-Louise Craven (with permission of the members)*

## LIBRARY VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION GATHERING: Thursday, October 19, 2023

Amy Solecki, our liaison with the library, organized this get-together and spoke to the Library's gratitude for all the hard work done by FOML members. She boasted that other libraries are envious of our fund-raising successes. Kim Grafton, representing the Meaford Library Board, accompanied by Frank Emptage, spoke next and reiterated how, because of FOML's fund-raising, so many activities and enhancements to the library are possible.



*Meaford Library Board Members*  
*Kim Grafton and Frank Emptage*



*Jean Gillespie and Lori Bumstead*

We'd like to thank Amy for all her enthusiasm and hard work as Outreach Coordinator. When she's off on maternity leave, Ashley Trusler will fill in as she so capably did with Amy's first mat. leave.



*Outgoing and Incoming Outreach Coordinators*  
*Amy Solecki and Ashley Trusler*

Here are a few shots of attendees:



*Rosemary Palmer, Janice Hardie*  
*Suzanna Van Deneshout and Finnegan*

## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BOOKS

### 1. Book Earrings

Member Dinah Shields created stylish hanging earrings with baubles and miniature books. Here's a sample of one of them—she's offering them free to members. Contact her at [dshields1926@gmail.com](mailto:dshields1926@gmail.com).



## 2. The Joy of Books

Many of us will agree with Canadian novelist, Patrick deWitt:

"I love used bookstores, because there's a sense of gambling. You don't know what's going to be there. What occurs at the bookstore is happenstance....It's a joyful quest."

*Globe and Mail, July 29, 2023.*

And we'll second member Janice Muise's response to an email from Chris Richardson:

"Awesome funds raised\*. An extra bonus to being around all these wonderful books every weekend!"

[Ed: \*over \$18,000 this summer]

## 3. Best Ever Meaford Convalescence Gift for a Sick Friend!

After a browse around the Net Shed, pick a selection of 5-6 fiction/non-fiction books that you have read and loved, or search for books you think your friend will love;

pick up a largish Dollarama gift bag;

along with books, stuff it with a few packages of goodies from The Kitchen (carrot cake?); alternatively in the fall, include a selection of our great Meaford apples.

## 4. Need Some Books?

Before the Net Shed closed, boxes of books were bundled up ready to be available to the community for two weeks starting November 30th at the library. Proceeds from this sale will go to the Food Bank.

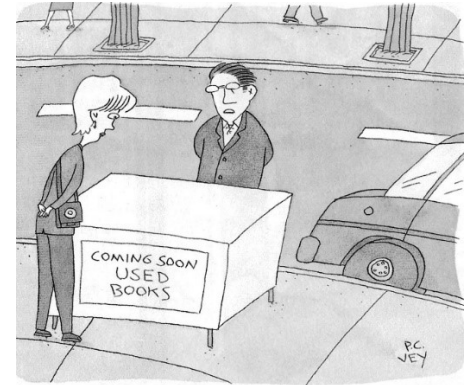
## 5. How to Donate Books Over the Winter

We don't want to miss out on receiving your discarded books when the Net Shed is closed. Email Chris at:

[netshedcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:netshedcoordinator@gmail.com)

and she will arrange to open the door of the Net Shed to hold the books till we open the May 24 weekend.

## And Finally:



*"I just have to finish reading them first."*

## Newsletter Editors:

Mary-Louise Craven and  
Ingrid Knisely